

Leading bioinformatics scientist joins PNNL



Michaels

George Michaels, an internationally recognized pioneer in bioinformatics, has been named director of bioinformatics at the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. He began his tenure on April 4.

Michaels will lead the growing portfolio of bioinformatics and computational biology research activities at the laboratory. He will oversee applicable systems biology and biotechnology research in PNNL's Biological Sciences and Computational Science and Mathematics divisions, as well as working closely with government and industrial clients.

"George has a strong record of building highly productive interdisciplinary teams and innovative scientific leadership in systems biology," said Reinhold Mann, associate laboratory director for PNNL's Fundamental Science Directorate. "We're looking forward to George leading the bioinformatics arm of our systems biology program."

Michaels' career spans nearly 30 years of technical and leadership contributions to his field. Most recently, Michaels held leadership positions at Monsanto in St. Louis, Mo., where he designed an integrated expression-profiling program. He also served as vice president and chief scientist of Genome Dynamics, a Maryland biotechnology startup company. While an associate professor at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., Michaels founded one of the nation's first doctoral programs in bioinformatics and computational biology. He earned a doctorate in biochemistry and molecular biology, as well as a bachelor's degree in microbiology from the University of Florida in Gainesville.

PNNL's bioinformatics program is part of the Biomolecular Systems Initiative. More than 60 PNNL staff members are studying molecular and cellular activity on a systems level with funding from agencies such as the Department of Energy and the National Institutes of Health. ■